

SYSTEM FOR SECURELY DELIVERING PRE-ENCRYPTED CONTENT ON DEMAND WITH ACCESS CONTROL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of delivering content from a head end to subscriber terminals within
one or more cable systems. Such content may be video, audio or the like. The method
includes the step of encrypting the content offline to form pre-encrypted content, generating
an encryption record containing parameters employed for encrypting the content. Based on
the encryption record, a control message for permitting access to the pre-encrypted content is
10 generated using a periodical key provided by the first cable system. The pre-encrypted
content and associated control message is thereafter forwarded to the first subscriber terminal
for decryption of the content. For a second subscriber terminal within a second cable system,
the pre-encrypted content is retrofitted with a second control message permitting the pre-
encrypted content to be decrypted by the second subscriber terminal. Further, multiple
versions of a control message for multiple service tiers within a cable system may be
generated, each version for permitting access to a particular service tier within the system.

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